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Promotion and protection of the rights of children

Human rights questions: implementation of human rights instruments

Letter dated 19 May 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Uzbekistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to attach information regarding the measures being taken by the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the field of protection of the rights of the child and on implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (see annex).

I would appreciate it if you would circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly under agenda items 67 and 71 (a).

(*Signed*) Alisher **Vohidov**
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Uzbekistan

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Annex to the letter dated 19 May 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Uzbekistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Russian]

Information on measures taken by the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the area of protection of the rights of the child

Uzbekistan ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child in December 1992. As a State party to the Convention, Uzbekistan attaches primary importance to issues concerning the legal, economic and social protection of maternity and childhood and to the establishment of conditions for the thorough development and upbringing of minors in the spirit of common human values.

To date, the Republic of Uzbekistan has submitted two national reports to the Committee on the Rights of the Child on its implementation of the provisions of the Convention.

With a view to complying with the concluding observations and recommendations of the Committee, the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan has developed a national plan of action as well as adopted more than 15 regulatory legal documents.

It should be noted that in virtually all of the newly adopted codes and laws of the Republic of Uzbekistan the principle of ensuring the best protection of the interests of children has been taken into account.

The legislation of the Republic of Uzbekistan provides the child with all the rights specified in the Convention without any discrimination, regardless of race, skin colour, sex, language, religion, political or other convictions, national, ethnic or social origin, property status and other considerations. The Republic is now drafting a law on the rights and well-being of the children of Uzbekistan.

An important area for safeguarding the interests of children is the organization of practical measures aimed at protecting their rights. In this respect, the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan has adopted and implemented several important State programmes, such as "The Family" and "A Healthy Generation" (2000); "Mothers and Children" (2001); and "Ecology, Maternity and Childhood" (2001); "Additional measures to strengthen the health of women and the rising generation" (2002); "Measures relating to implementation of the priority areas of improving medical knowledge in the family and strengthening women's health, and to bearing and raising a healthy generation" (2002); and "Kindness and Mercy" (2004).

Since 2001, a Commission on Juvenile Affairs has been operating in Uzbekistan. Non-governmental organizations have been actively involved in the country such as the Children's Fund of Uzbekistan, the international charitable foundation Soglom avlod uchun (The Healthy Generation Fund), the Sen yolgiz emassan (You Are Not Alone) Foundation, the Umidvorlik Support Centre for Disadvantaged Children, the SOS-Rural Children of Uzbekistan Association (SOS-Kinderdorf International), the Mekhr Tayanchi Centre, the Children's Sports

Development Fund of Uzbekistan, centres for social and legal assistance to minors and others.

In order to enhance the effectiveness of efforts to promote the mental development and physical health of the younger generation, the National Centre for the Social Adaptation of Children was established under the Women's Committee of Uzbekistan.

Particular attention is given to the issue of social partnership between government agencies and the non-governmental sector in conducting joint activities.

A coalition of non-State and non-governmental organizations working for the benefit of children comprises 122 such organizations, which are carrying out activities in very diverse fields and areas, collaborating with government agencies as well as international public organizations and foundations and foreign embassies and missions.

As a result of the active interaction between government agencies and non-governmental organizations, in accordance with the Memorandum of the International Conference on the Social Protection of Orphans (2-3 June 2004, Tashkent), a Coordinating Council on the social protection of orphans and children without parental care was established under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

In addition, effective measures are being taken to reduce child mortality. In general the indicator for child mortality in the country for the past few years has tended to decrease. Since 2003, Uzbekistan has been working on a transition to the live-birth criteria recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO).

To reduce morbidity and mortality among children, basic children's medical services in Uzbekistan are being improved. Regular examinations of children aged 1 to 5 and thorough medical examinations of children aged 6 before enrolment in school are carried out. Children up to the age of 14 undergo comprehensive yearly medical checkups involving appropriate specialists.

For the purpose of preventing intestinal illnesses, all regions of Uzbekistan are provided with the necessary drugs in sufficient quantities.

Uzbekistan has successfully adapted to the WHO system for combating respiratory and intestinal illnesses. Specialists have been widely sent to all of the regions of Uzbekistan for the purpose of actively introducing the WHO system for the comprehensive treatment of childhood diseases.